



Proclamation

- WHEREAS,** Hurricanes Katrina and Rita changed the face of homelessness in Louisiana. Communities are struggling to address the needs of homeless evacuees while continuing to address those that needed housing prior to the storms; and
- WHEREAS,** we are addressing the needs of the homeless using a collaborative approach to overcome the problems associated with the bureaucracy and the barriers to the development of permanent supportive housing; and
- WHEREAS,** Louisiana has joined the rest of the country in an effort to establish long term and short term plans from the state level and through the regional jurisdictions to end homelessness within ten years using a housing first model; and
- WHEREAS,** the State Conference on Homelessness will be held in Shreveport from March 20-22, 2006, to address our successes and failures. The theme of this year's conference will be "Ending Homelessness: the Tools to make it happen!"; and
- WHEREAS,** the goal of this conference is to inspire providers and consumers to implement integrated services and housing resources for all in need to help bring an end to families and individuals struggling to overcome homelessness.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, Governor of the State of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim March 20-25, 2006, as

HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS WEEK

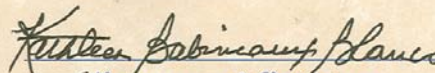
in the state of Louisiana, and encourage all citizens to become more aware of the hardships of families and individuals who are homeless and to recognize and support the efforts within each community to develop and strengthen integrated continuum of care service systems to comprehensively address the complex and diverse needs of homeless persons.



Attest By
The Governor


Secretary of State

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set
my hand officially and caused to be affixed the
Great Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the
Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this
the 14th day of March
A.D., 2006*


Governor of Louisiana